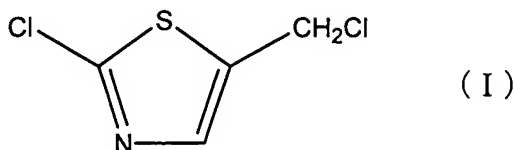


### Amendments to the Claims

#### 1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) A process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole represented by the formula (I):



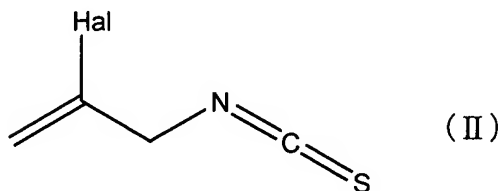
which comprises:

treating a crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole represented by the formula (I) with a lower alcohol, and then

distilling the treated 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole.

8. (New) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 7, wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is treated with the lower alcohol by adding the lower alcohol to the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole, followed by stirring.

9. (New) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 7, wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is a reaction mixture obtained by reacting a 2-halogenoallyl isothiocyanate represented by the general formula (II):



wherein Hal represents a chlorine atom or a bromine atom, with a chlorinating agent in the presence of a solvent, or

wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is a residue obtained by distilling the solvent from the reaction mixture.

**10. (New)** The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 9, wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is a residue obtained by distilling the solvent from the reaction mixture.

**11. (New)** The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 7, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.

**12. (New)** The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 8, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.

**13. (New)** The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 9, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.

**14. (New)** The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 10, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.

**15. (New)** The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 9, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.

**16. (New)** The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 10, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.

**17. (New)** The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 13, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.

**18. (New)** The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 14, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.